

ILLUSTRATED TALES TO BEWITCH & BEDEVIL YOU



VAMPI
#23

APRIL 1973

VAMPIRELLA

A WARREN MAGAZINE P.O.C. 75¢ 588856

DEEP
IN THE
HEART
OF THE
JUNGLE
AWAITS
THE
DEADLY
COBRA
QUEEN!

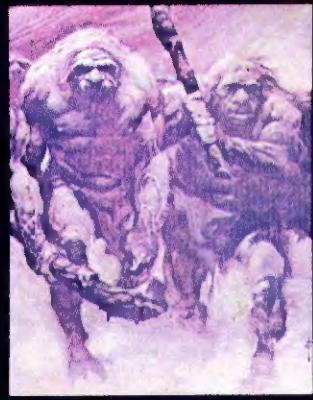


E. S. GORDON



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CREEPY

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THEN ALONG CAME
EERIE
WITH HIS OWN BRAND
OF TERROR AND SUSPENSE!



NEXT, WE UNLEASHED
VAMPIRELLA
TO TRIPLE YOUR HEARTBEAT
WITH HER OWN
BEWITCHING TALES!

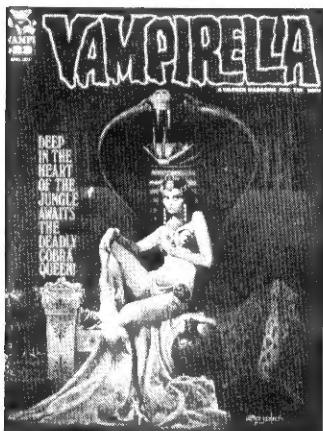


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OUR COVER
The tale of the Cobra Queen, most beautiful and deadly of all jungle legends unfolds on page 24. Cover art is by Sanjulian.

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VAMPIRELLA

CONTENTS ISSUE NO. 23 APRIL 1973

4

VAMPI'S SCARLET LETTERS

"It's about time you fellows realized the sexual connotations of vampirism, and I applaud you for it," writes one of our female fang-fans. Also, other letters about Vampirella and company.

6

QUEEN OF BAYOU PARISH
In a small swamp-town, Vampirella and friends find themselves caught in a trap from which there is no escape... and Vampi is forced to play the helpless pawn in a game of Death!

24

COBRA QUEEN The dark jungles provide an eerie scene for this tale of fear... where a Safari of hunters enter a primitive tribe in search of the Cobra Queen. What they find, though, thrusts them to the brink of doom!

32

CALL IT COMPANIONSHIP A bizarre set of roommates makes for a terrifying tale—a kitten and her mistress prove how catty some women become; the pet takes over the master's mind for revenge on animal-haters!

38

THE ACCURSED Why would anyone want to visit a cemetery in the middle of the night? Especially a cemetery with a werewolf, vampire bats and a pack of hungry rats guarding the body of their master—the sorcerer!

46

WITCH'S PROMISE In a hidden hillside grotto, a soldier finds that love and death are not that far apart, when he meets and mates a lonely lovesick witch who was born almost two centuries before, and refuses to die!

65

WON'T EDDIE EVER LEARN? Poor Eddie, you'd think by this time he would have learned. After running from the police on one charge, why did he have to go robbing again? Poor Eddie, he'll end up in the pen, again!

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing Co. guarantees the delivery and satisfaction of all items advertised in this issue. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.



"Only thing wrong with VAMPIRELLA: Science Fiction!"

About VAMPIRELLA #21: Marvelous, simply marvelous. Enrich's cover painting was beautiful, though not as beautiful as his cover for Vampi #18. "Mind Benders" was great!

How come when Vampires change form their clothing changes also? It makes everything quite unreal.

By the way, how do you pronounce your name? I have two friends and we all say it differently.

ROE KAMP

St. Petersburg, Fla.

 My name is pronounced "VAMPA-RELLA."

How do you guys do it? Issue #21 was another success. That cover! There are NO words great enough to express my feelings about that cover. Every cover by Enrich has been super-tastic. My sister thought the covers of #18 and #21 were photographs.

"Slitherers Of The Sand" was by far the best story. All the other stories were about the same degree of greatness. The "Short-Shocker" was pretty neat, too.

DONNY SCONTROS
Orono, Maine

I'd like to point out that your true Women's Lib stories are not those which play so effectively on men's fears, but those dealing with Vampi! The tables are turned and it is Adam who is continually rescued by her, goes mad in the heat, tries to be heroic, and blows it, and is generally a useless piece of baggage like women used to be in adventure fiction! I am waiting for Vampi to get into a fight indoors so Adam can pick up a vase and break it over the wrong person's head. It is as much a drag when a man has to play that role. Adam was just fine when Archie Goodwin was handling him, but although Steve Englehart is a great improvement over T. Casey Brennan, it doesn't look like he's going to do any better by Adam.

For the rest, I'm with Linda Maxwell in congratulating you on admitting the sexuality of Vampirism. This aspect of it has long been acknowledged by movies, and except for the rare case of Lugosi bending over Dwight Frye, I can't remember a male vampire moving in to bite a man except to kill. It is noteworthy that in Dracula AD 1972 (which is a lot better than it sounds), although Lee is willing to try to bite Cushing to kill him, when he has to bite the boy who is his assistant in order to give him the powers of vampirism, Lee is noticeably reluctant, and the camera blacks out on the scene.

MS. LLOYD ROSE
Chapel Hill, N.C.

I have been reading your magazine ever since issue #1. I enjoy the VAMPIRELLA stories and their concept of the fact that everyone can be on the side of good if they want to be. I like the way you hold up under pressure, Vampi; you seem to want to be good but you have to fight your nature to do this. Vampi, cheer up. You are not alone in your fight—the people of the Earth are the same way. You are mystified by a world you don't understand but I think you have just missed seeing the sameness of the two worlds. Many people have their affliction to conquer. The fight for survival is a long hard one and the differences of the causes are better understood than you think. You have shown us one side of Earth vampires, but there is another side, too—those that are Vampires not because of themselves, but those who fell victim and thus become what they would not want to be, and they, too, have to conquer their curse.

DEBRA HATFIELD
Ft. Smith, Ark.

I think VAMPIRELLA #21 was good. "The Vampiress Stalks" was really good. "Paranoia" was fair. "Slitherers Of The Sand" was the best. A word of warning, Vampi. Some of your latest issues are not as good as they used to be. You better improve your features or EERIE and CREEPY will run you out of the business. Hang in there, Vampi.

JOHN PATROS
Wappingers Falls, N.Y.

VAMPIRELLA #21 was just fantastic. The cover was beautiful, even with signs of Death, yet, you still looked gorgeous, Vampi.

BOB HASTY
Portsmouth, Va.

I just finished reading issue #21 which happens to be the first one I bought. I'm happy to say that all your stories were beautifully done. The artwork was absolutely fabulous. I especially liked "The Vampiress Stalks The Castle This Night," and also "Tomb Of The Gods." I hope you keep up the good work, 'cause I plan to keep buying more of your issues.

IRIS CRUZ
Brooklyn, N.Y.

 Hey, men—where are your letters? Most of the letters seem to be from the girls. What's happening? Let's put the Male back in the mail column.

To put it simply, VAMPIRELLA #21 was stupendous! Even the page numbers shone with a certain radiance. Gonzalez couldn't have captured your beldisious beauty more perfectly.

"Vampiress Stalks the Castle" was a suspenseful mystery as well as a true work of art.

KELLY KEARSE
Charleston, S.C.

I must say that "Slitherers In The Sand" was the best story in VAMPIRELLA #21. Gonzalez's artwork was good as usual, and I hope Gonzalez will stay with VAMPIRELLA as the number one artist for years to come.

Also, "The Vampiress Stalks The Castle This Night" had good artwork, but the story didn't make much sense.

I am disappointed that you did not have Auraleon illustrate a story in this issue, and I am suggesting that you have him do more artwork in the future.

SANDRA DOWDRY
Winston, Salem, N.C.

I have been reading the VAMPIRELLA episodes ever since issue number one, but haven't written until now. As far as the series goes, I MISS ARCHIE! Chad Archer is pretty good, but nobody can equal Archie Goodwin's eloquent writing style.

Don't think me a tactless boor, but I don't like the "Tomb of the Gods" series. Maroto is a great artist, but as a writer, he has a ways to go.

"Paranoia" was truly great, with both Steve Skeates and Luis Garcia coming on with their usual polish. I enjoyed "Puppy Love," your Short-Shocker. Felix Mas' art in "The Vampiress Stalks" was fantasmagorical.

JOHN VOLAND
Van Nuys, Calif.

All I've got to say about VAMPIRELLA is: the only thing wrong with your magazine is SCIENCE FICTION! The only thing right: Garcia, Bea, Dube, Dominguez, Maroto and Sutton!

KATHLEEN LaCLAIRE
Miami, Fla.

Just wanted to congratulate you on #21. My favorite story was "Slitherers Of The Sand." I especially liked the artwork on Page 6. Never lose Gonzalez.

ERIH MIAZGA
Toronto, Canada



Cover artist Enrich's photographic rendition of VAMPIRELLA in a scene from "The Slitherers of the Sand," drew much reader comment. Most was complimentary of the art!

"Only thing right: Maroto, Bea!"

Touche, dear girl, touche. With each issue, VAMPIRELLA becomes increasingly better. Obviously the head haunch at Warren Publishing has finally realized that their countless readers deserve something better than the pitiful material they were getting. And, by golly, they've done something about it. Somebody has really put the Warren Magazines on their feet. They've gotten off the ground, and that is exactly what the magazines have needed for a long time. And who is leading this march for excellence? None other than the sexiest thing that has hit the comic world since Wonder Woman—it can be none other than the Draculonian sensation, VAMPIRELLA.

Vampi, you are indeed magnificent.

A typical example of your splendor is quite evident in issue #21. This issue happens to be the first of my new 14 issue subscription.

One thing that has always set the Warren Magazines apart from other horror magazines is their exceptionally fine cover art. No. 21 is, of course, no exception. The cover was great. But, as we all know, nothing else can be expected from Enrich. He has repeatedly proved this with issues #17 & 18.

Everything has shown improvement in the magazine, including the letter's column. Besides visibly looking visually exciting I'm glad to see you no longer print solely complimentary letters. Criticizing letters and even some making outright derogatory statements are now seen. I am also pleased to see letters that offer polite constructive criticism with real insight and thought.

As for the stories, most were of a very high standard.

"Slitherers Of The Sand" was good, but somehow seemed to lack imagination. The involvement of plot that your old story writer, Archie Goodwin, put in has not been rivaled yet. In my opinion, Archie Goodwin is to Vampirella as Robert Howard is to Conan. Archie gave you life with all its joys and sorrows. Indeed, under his pen, you were real, a flesh and blood person. Then you were submitted to the imaginations of T. Casey Brennan, who, at the time, seemed to be a sufficient replacement. In fact, with the first issues when he took over the reigns, Mr. Brennan made a terrific showing of himself as he did in his past tales. But slowly, gradually, his plots become boring, mediocre and you dropped into the "make-be-

lieve" ranks of a typical comic character.

Now you've turned over to Steve Englehart. Perhaps he can place you back up on the pedestal you so richly deserve.

But even with your withering plots, the dramatic art of Jose Gonzalez pulls each issue through. Though Goodwin gave you literary life, Gonzalez has given you artistic life. Gonzalez rescued you from the rut made by Tom Sutton. But with the talents of Gonzalez behind you, Vampi, you can go nowhere but up.

I think that has been proven with the fabulous poster he did of you. I have one and it was worth every cent I paid for it. I also have a six-foot Frankenstein poster by Jack Davis. Both hang side by side on my closet doors. I affectionately call them "Beauty and the Beast."

About your other stories. The few people who criticize Esteban Maroto's solo work are the ones who can't see the allegories that each tale holds. I believe every story Maroto has written that has appeared in the Warren Magazines is symbolic of a point or ideal Maroto is attempting to get across to the readers.

"Paranoia" by Steve Skeates is typical of the Skeates syndrome. Acceptable, but not at all outstanding. "The Vampire Stalks the Castle At Night." When I first saw it, I thought it was going to be a standard Vampire story. However I was wrong. Mr. McGregor can write a good Vampire tale and make it truly different. All in all, Vampi, your stories are on the up and up. And I'm sure you'll keep them that way.

M. GREGORY BRYANT
Seminole, Fla.

I received my six foot poster of you today, and it is really beautiful. You look so great you even made my girlfriend jealous. Not even Playboy has posters this good, VAMPIRELLA.

Issue #21 was a distinct improvement over issues in which Brennan was the VAMPIRELLA strip scriptor, and what a fantastic 23 page adventure you had. Steve Englehart is portraying your emotions better than any other author, and nobody could illustrate you better than Gonzalez. I advise all readers to complete their VAMPIRELLA collections as quickly as possible, because they are all collector's editions bound to increase in price.

WESLEY SCOTT
Belle Plaine, Kansas



There were muscular heroes and voluptuous women galore in Esteban Maroto's controversial "Tomb of the Gods" series. Many readers claimed they loved the art, but the writing wasn't up to par. The series has been dropped in favor of more Maroto artwork on traditional horror stories!

This is the first one of your magazines I've read, and it won't be the last. Issue #21 was great! I've seen your poster, and the drawing in "Slitherers of the Sand," and it proves to me that Jose Gonzalez is a master.

The story itself bugs me however. I mean, a giant slug? And a talking one at that. Dracula really comes on strong in the end, the way he should have been all through the story: fighting to drink the blood of Pendragon and the Van Helsing's! We want MORE Dracula!

JOEL BAILEY
Brooklyn, N.Y.

More Dracula coming up, Joel! With the current issue of EERIE, on sale now, DRACULA begins a series all his own! And VAMPIRELLA herself makes a quickie appearance.

I must say that VAMPIRELLA is the best magazine on the market today. And the artistry is the best I've ever seen anywhere! Jose Gonzalez can draw anything. But I would like to see him draw a werewolf story, starring VAMPIRELLA!

BOBBY HANON
Upland, Calif.

Jose Gonzalez already has drawn a werewolf VAMPIRELLA strip, Bobby! Way back in issue #14, VAMPIRELLA battled a she-wolf on "The Isle of the Huntress!"

VAMPI'S BITING HER NAILS!

Think you've got problems, bunky? VAMPIRELLA is biting her nails because she thinks nobody loves her! She only received 722 letters this morning. Why not write a letter to everybody's favorite neck-biter today!

SCARLET LETTERS
c/o Warren Publishing Co.
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016



WINTERTIME IN MAINE! TO MANY WHO TREAD THE CONCRETE / CLAY OF EAST COAST METROPOLISES, IT IS A THREE-DAY INUNDATION IN FANTASY, A BADLY-NEEDED BREATH OF FRESH AIR. TO OTHERS-- THE SKI BUMS, THE STUDENTS, THE RICH-- IT IS ONLY ANOTHER ALL STOP ON A FIVE--MONTH TOUR OF SNOW. AND TO RESIDENTS, IT IS A REQUISITE HARSHIP NAILED INTO THE UNWRITTEN CONTRACT OF BEING AN EASTERNER.

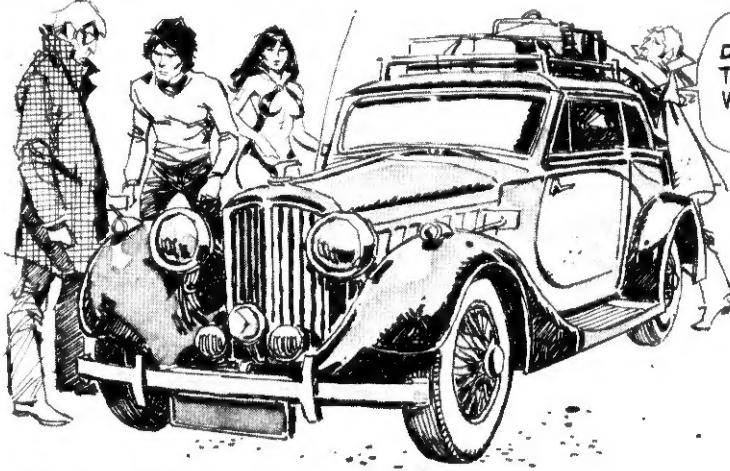
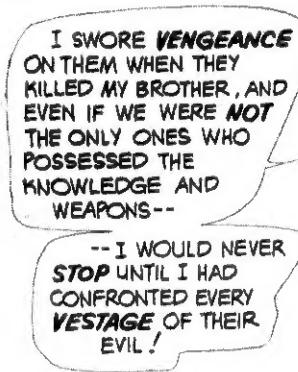
BUT TO ONE, IT IS UNIQUE-- BECAUSE ON HER ALIEN BIRTH-PLANET, THERE IS NO WATER TO FREEZE INTO HEXAGONAL CRYSTALS--AND HER NAME IS...

VAMPIRELLA

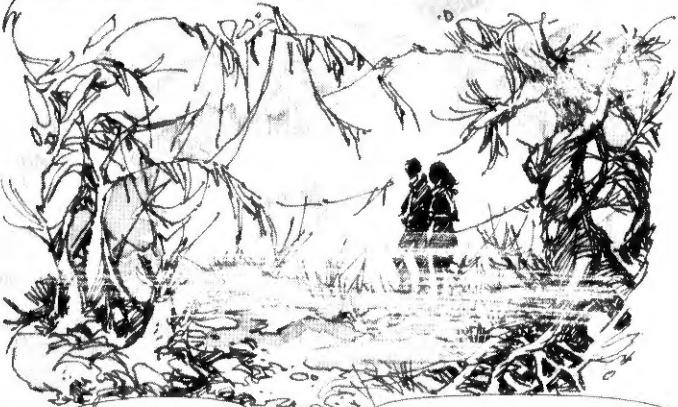




* SEE VAMPIRELLA #22 "HELL FROM ON HIGH!"



BAYOU PARISH ISN'T LISTED ON YOUR GASOLINE STATION ROAD MAP. IT HAS NO POST OFFICE... NO TOWN CENTER... NO GASOLINE STATION. IT'S MERELY A PATCH OF SCRUBBY LAND AND SUCKING SWAMP, SOMEWHERE TO THE SOUTHWEST OF NEW ORLEANS, BY CAJUNS... AND OTHERS WHO DON'T LIKE CIVILIZATION. IT DOES ITS BEST TO HIDE FROM THE WORLD. WOULD THAT IT COULD HAVE SUCCEEDED....



FOR BAYOU PARISH'S YOUNG PEOPLE FIGHT THE OLD WAYS, OF COURSE--AND THIS NIGHT, IT IS TO THEIR COST!

GEE, GARY, WHY'D WE HAVE TO LEAVE THE PARTY SO EARLY?
IT WAS GETTIN' REAL GOOD.



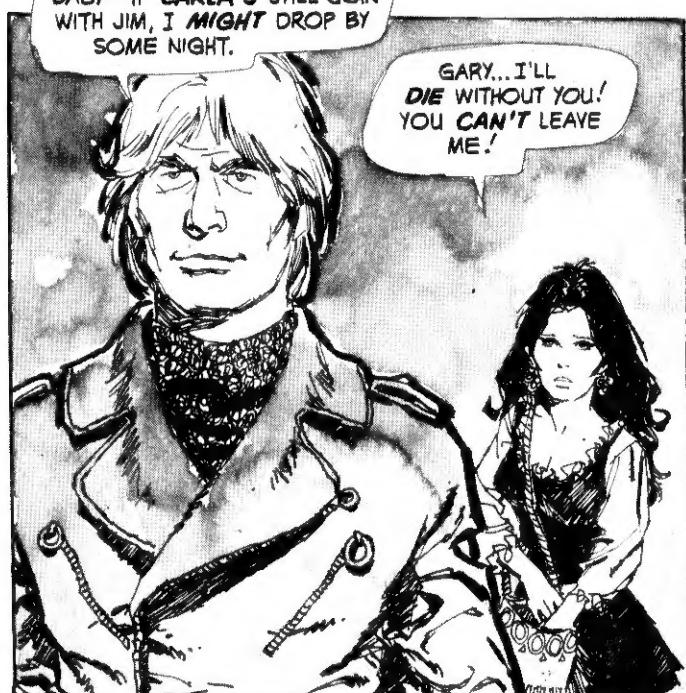
GARY-- DON'T SAY THAT! I--I LOVE YOU! I NEED YOU!

SURE, 'CAUSE I'M THE BEST YOU'LL EVER GET, YOU PIG. BUT I'VE GOTTNEN YOU NOW, SO IT'S TIME TO CHECK OUT SOMEBODY NEW, DIG?



DON'T FEEL TOO BAD, BABY-- IF CARLA'S STILL GOIN' WITH JIM, I MIGHT DROP BY SOME NIGHT.

GARY... I'LL DIE WITHOUT YOU!
YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME!



AND QUIT CRYIN'
ON MY SHIRT! MAW
PAID TWENTY BUCKS
FOR IT!



YOU
CAN'T...



I WON'T
LIVE
WITHOUT---



**COME TO ME NOW,
WOMAN-OF-THE-WATER
... AND BE ONE
WITH ME.**

**THE DARKLING
DISCIPLES DEMANDS
YOU TO BE...**



THE BLOOD QUEEN OF CABO PARISH

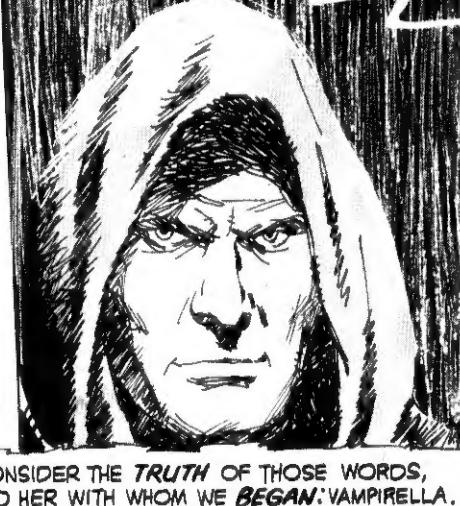
AFTER DEATH MUST COME THE FUNERAL,
TO EASE THE PAIN OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND.
BUT HOW CAN THE PAIN OF PARENTS BE
SAVED, WHEN THEY KNOW THAT THEIR
ONLY DAUGHTER... WAS A SUICIDE?

THE MORTAL REMAINS ARE
BURIED HERE... BUT THE SPIRIT
SHALL SURELY MEET WITH THAT
GREAT GOD WHO LIVES
FOREVER....

THE
GOD WE ALL...
SERVE...

THANK YOU,
FATHER JONAS. IT
WAS A NICE
CHRISTIAN SERVICE.

ASHES TO ASHES...
DUST TO DUST...



WAS IT, MR.
CARTIER? OR DO
YOU JUST THINK
IT WAS?

THERE ARE...
MANY GODS...



AND WHILE WE CONSIDER THE TRUTH OF THOSE WORDS,
LET US RETURN TO HER WITH WHOM WE BEGAN: VAMPIRELLA.

CONRAD! COME IN... COME
IN! I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOU
EAGERLY, EVER SINCE YOUR
TELEGRAM CAME.

THE FLESH IS WEAK,
VICTOR... BUT THE MIND
IS STILL ACTIVE.

HOW ARE
YOU, OLD
FRIEND?



AS OPPOSED TO
WHAT, VICTOR? MY
EXISTENCE HAS BEEN
A DANGEROUS ONE
FOR MANY YEARS, AS
YOU WELL KNOW.

AT ANY RATE, I HAVE
ALLIES. YOU KNOW MY SON,
ADAM-- AND THIS IS
VAMPIRELLA, A MOST
UNUSUAL YOUNG GIRL.

BUT... WHERE IS PENDRAGON,
ADAM?



WHERE ELSE, DAD? HE SPOTTED A TAVERN DOWN THE STREET... PRONOUNCED IT A "QUAINT REMNANT OF FRENCH VITALITY"... AND WENT TO--AH--
"STUDY IT."

YES INDEED--
STUDY IT AND GAIN
THEREBY

I SHOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO MEET A LOVELY YOUNG EXPONENT OF THIS CHARMING CITY'S GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY, SALLY SUE CARTIER.

HI.

ADAM, SHE IS THE IMAGE... THE PERFECT IMAGE... OF MY VERY OWN ROSIE, A YOUTHFUL EXERCISE IN THE MYSTERIES OF ROMANCE, LOVED AND LOST BEFORE THE WORLD WAR. I TELL YOU, I... AH, WELL....

SALLY SUE AND I CHANCED UPON EACH OTHER JUST NOW-- AND WE'RE OFF TO THE CITY, TO INSPECT THE ANCIENT BUILDINGS, AND PERHAPS TO SAMPLE ONE OR TWO EXPORTS OF SUNNY FRENCH VINEYARDS.

DON'T BE TOO LONG, PENDRAGON, WE HAVE WORK TO DO.

LET HIM GO, VAMPIRELLA. OUR PATH MAY BE PERILOUS. --ANY OASIS ALONG IT SHOULD BE NURTURED.

BUT WE WANTED TO INFORM YOU, TO FORESTALL ANY APPREHENSION FROM MY ABSENCE.

I KNEW THAT OLD FRAUD WAS LOVABLE. --NOW I KNOW HE HAS GOOD TASTE.

I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS ANY EARTH GIRL THAT LOOKED LIKE YOU, VAMPIRELLA.

ME? WELL, IF YOU THINK SO, ADAM. OF COURSE, WITH HER BROWN HAIR ---

BROWN?
BUT--HER HAIR
WAS BLONDE!

NO, IT
WAS
BLACK.

UNLESS WE
WERE AFFECTED
BY A SPELL--

--WHICH MEANS
WE ARE INVOLVED
WITH THE DARKLING
DISCIPLES
ALREADY--

--AND
PENDRAGON
IS THEIR
HELPLESS
PAWN!

UNLESS
WHAT?

SOMETHING IS
WRONG HERE. WE
CAN'T BE THAT
CONFUSED--UNLESS...

A STREAK OF SCARLET FLASHES FROM THE WINDOW LEDGE... BUT THEN THE POWERS OF ONE BORN ON THE PLANET DRAKULON MANIFEST THEMSELVES, AND THE GIRL TAKES THE FORM OF A NIGHT-FLYING BAT.



CRISS-CROSSING THE CONFUSING BYWAYS OF NEW ORLEANS' FAMED FRENCH QUARTER--THEN INTO THE HEART OF THE MODERN METROPOLIS--SWIFTLY FLIES THE TINY CREATURE...



...BUT ITS BRIGHT, BEADY EYES SIGHT NO SIGN OF AN AGING MAGICIAN, AND SO:



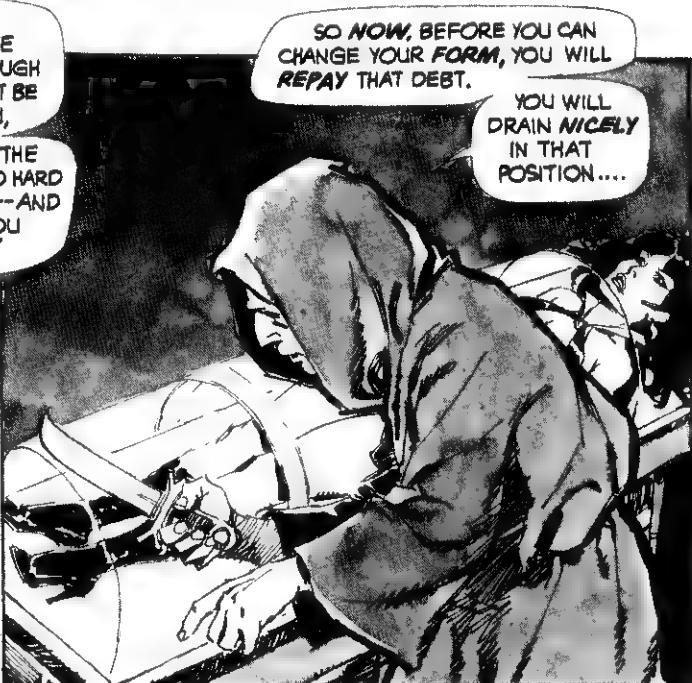
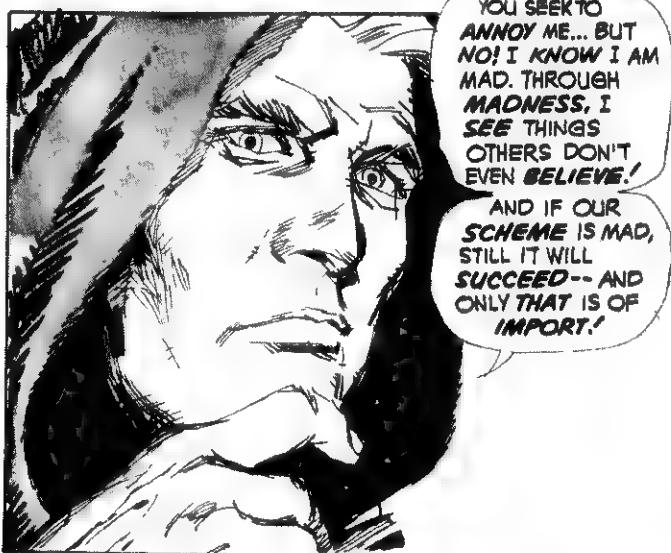
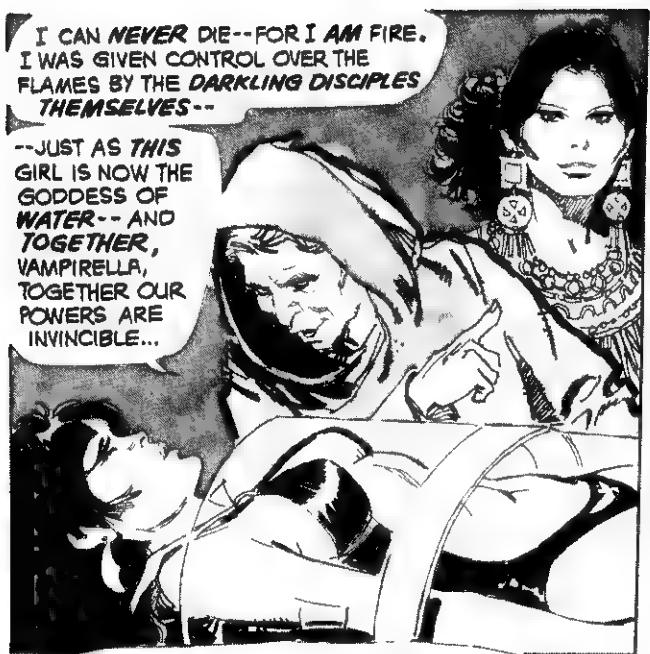




UNCONSCIOUSNESS FROM LACK OF AIR IS A HORRIBLE THING, FOR IT IN THOSE LAST TWILIGHT MOMENTS BEFORE AWARENESS RETURNS, THERE ARE DREAMS-- DREAMS THAT YOU'LL NEVER WAKE... THAT THE LINE BETWEEN BLACKING OUT AND DEATH IS SO THIN, ANY SMALL ERROR COULD HAVE LAID YOU OUT FOREVER.

BUT EVENTUALLY, AWARENESS DOES RETURN, BRINGING RELIEF-- UNLESS YOU ARE VAMPIRELLA, AND MUST SEE WHAT SHE SEES--









NOW YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU DID TO ME
WHEN YOU TOUCHED
ME WITH THAT
CRUCIFIX!

AGONY WITHOUT END
AND DEATH WITHOUT HOPE LAY
WITH ME IN THE SNOW, THE FIRE-
RAVAGED SHARDS OF MY BODY FIT
ONLY FOR CARRION -- IF THEY
WERE STARVING!

STILL, THE DISCIPLES
WATCHED OVER ME --
AND THEY REINCARNATED
ME AS A LIVING ENTITY --

-- BUT THEY HAVE
THEIR PUNISHMENTS
FOR FAILURE, AND THEY
HAVE THEIR JOKES!

MY LEGS
WERE RUINED,
CRUMBLING --

THEY
FOUND ME NEW
ONES!



AT THE SOUND OF FLESH MEETING FLOOR, THE GIRL FROM DRAKULON CHOKES OFF HER INCIPENT SCREAM. WHEREAS, MOMENTS BEFORE, HER FATE LAY IN ADAM VAN HELSING'S HANDS, SHE KNOWS NOW THAT HIS FATE BELONGS TO HER-- AND IT IS THE SEASONED HUNTRESS THAT IS NEEDED HERE, NOT THE HEARTSICK WOMAN.



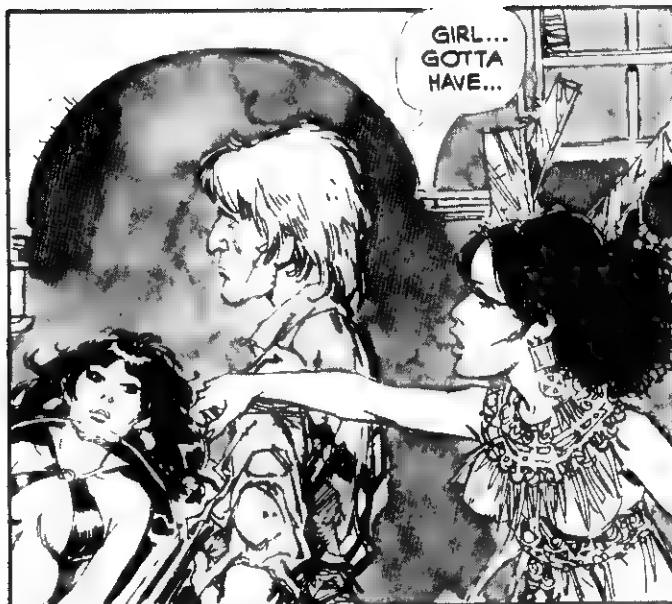
BUT AS VAMPIRELLA RACKS HER BRAIN FOR A MANNER OF ESCAPE, SOMETHING ELSE IS HAPPENING--IN THE BRAIN OF HIM WHO ONCE CALLED HIMSELF GARY.

IT IS NOTHING MIRACULOUS, NOR EVEN PRAISEWORTHY. IT IS ONLY THAT HIS BASIC NATURE FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF HIS ENCHANTED MIND, LIKE AN OILY BUBBLE, LIKE A DEAD FISH...

THE NATURE THAT IS, SIMPLY, ANIMAL LUST.

...THE NATURE THAT GRADES AND CATEGORIZES THIS GIRL AS MEAT, LIKE HUNDREDS BEFORE HER... BUT MEAT TO BE TOUCHED... POSSESSED...





IT'S NOT MUCH-- BUT IT'S ALL THERE IS TO THIS BOY,
THE SUM AND SUBSTANCE OF HIM, AND WITH LUST
COMES THOUGHT...

...AND WITH THOUGHT COMES INTELLIGENCE-- A FREE INTELLIGENCE THAT SEES SALLY SUE CARTIER...

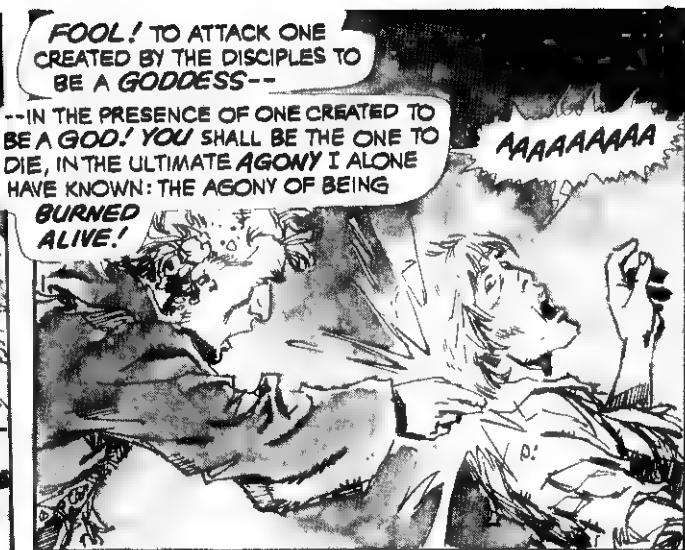


...AS SHE REALLY IS.

NO LONGER THE WOMAN OF MEN'S DREAMS... NO
LONGER EVEN THE HOMELY TEENAGER DESPERATE FOR
LOVE... NO LONGER ALIVE.
GARY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND-- BUT HE KNOWS!

HE KNOWS HE IS FACE TO FACE WITH UNDREAMT HORROR,
AND THE MIND JUST RESCUED COLLAPSES AGAIN IN FINAL
NAUSEA, RATHER THAN LIVE WITH THAT THOUGHT!





--BUT THERE IS STILL ONE LAST THOUGHT TO BE THOUGHT,
BEFORE HIS BRAIN COOLS FOR ETERNITY: AN EPITAPH OF
SORTS...





TO THE ANCIENTS, THERE WERE FOUR ELEMENTS: EARTH, AIR, FIRE, AND WATER... EACH UNIQUE, EACH FANTASTICALLY POWERFUL--

--AND EACH WITH POWER OVER THE OTHERS! MIX FIRE AND WATER-- THE RESULT IS TUMULT!





--BUT IT CAN'T LAST FOREVER! IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE THIS SHACK ALIVE, IT'LL HAVE TO BE BECAUSE I'M DEAD!

ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN SECOND RATE-- THIRD RATE, EVEN IN EVERYTHING. I COULDN'T EVEN DIE CLEANLY.



EASY...EASY. I DON'T DARE HURT HIM AT THIS STAGE... STOP RIGHT THERE, VAMPIRELLA! YOUR LUCK MAY BE INCREDIBLE--



BUT I PLAY THE CARDS I'M DEALT-- AND IF FATHER JONAS WANTS ME AS HIS BLOOD QUEEN, I'M GONNA DO MY DAMNDEST FOR HIM. YOU'VE SCREWED UP EVERYTHING I'VE TRIED TODAY--AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA PAY!



--AND THEN REASON WINS OUT AGAINST MANIA!



LIKE A MOTH DRAWN TO DEATH IN A DANCING FLAME, SALLY SUE CARTIER HURDLES HELPLESSLY INTO THE ROARING HEART OF THE INFERNO--

--AND LEAVES A SHOWER OF BILLOWING SPARKS AS SHE CRASHES ON THROUGH THE CARBONIZED FLOOR, TO DISAPPEAR FOREVER FROM THE SIGHT OF MAN!

SUPPLELY, VAMPIRELLA WHIRLS, SEARCHING FOR A GLIMPSE OF HER OTHER FOE THROUGH THE HEAT-TWISTED AIR--

--BUT THERE IS NOTHING. FATHER JONAS IS-- GONE!



EPILOGUE: SEVENTEEN MINUTES LATER, THE TUMBLE-DOWN SHANTY THAT PLAYED HOST TO AN EVE OF RAGING NIGHTMARES LIES DEAD AND SMOKING, ALREADY BEING INTERRED BY THE SICKING SWAMP. BAYOU PARISH HAS NOT NOTICEABLY CHANGED.

--BUT JONAS WASN'T THERE, WHERE DID HE GO? THERE WAS ONLY ONE EXIT, AND YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN HIM IF HE'D GONE THAT WAY.

DO YOU SUPPOSE HE FELL THROUGH THE FLOOR, LIKE THE GIRL?

THAT'S THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION, ADAM... BUT WE ACCEPTED THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION LAST TIME. THIS TIME... I WISH WE KNEW FOR CERTAIN.

OHHH, MY HEAD...



NEXT: INTO THE INFERNO!

HERE'S A JOLTIN'
JUNGLE OPUS TO MAKE
YOUR BLOOD BOIL AND
COIL...A LITTLE DERANGED
DITTY I CALL

COBRA QUEEN

JAICE PACKSTON'S FACE WAS BURIED
BENEATH A LAYER OF SWEAT AFTER
ANOTHER FULL DAY UNDER THE HOT SUN
OF INDIA. BUT HE, AND HIS COMPANIONS,
THE DISTINGUISHED SIR REGINALD OF
LONDON, AND THE SOUTHERN PHYSICIAN,
DR. JAMES LONGLEY, MOVED ONWARD...
ONWARD...

BLIMEY, JACOB!
WE'VE BEEN TREKKING
THROUGH THIS INFERNAL
JUNGLE FOR DAYS, NOW!
AND STILL NOTHING
IN SIGHT!

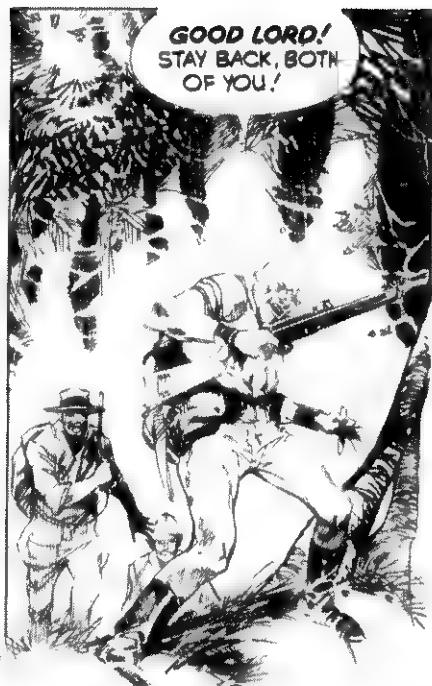
SIR REGINALD'S
RIGHT, I RECKON.'
I MEAN, WE BEEN
JUST MARCHIN' ALONG
HERE, CHOPPIN' OUR
WAY THROUGH ALL
THIS HERE FOLIAGE
AND EVERTHING, AND
STILL WE AIN'T COME
ACROSS WHAT WE
BEEN LOOKIN' FOR.
DON'T YOU THINK
WE OUGHTA BE
TURNIN' BACK?

NO! I'M NOT
TAKING ONE STEP
BACK TOWARD
CIVILIZATION UNTIL I FIND
WHAT I SET OUT TO
FIND! THAT ANCIENT MAP
IS GOING TO LEAD US
RIGHT TO THE LOST
TEMPLE OF THE
COBRA...

...AND THE
LEGENDARY
**COBRA
QUEEN!**

BUT, JACOB!
WE'VE BEEN
FOLLOWING THAT MAP
TO THE LETTER! IF
THERE WERE ANY RUINS OR
ANYTHING IN THIS AREA,
WE'D HAVE FOUND THEM
BY NOW!

THEY'RE AROUND
HERE... SOMEWHERE!
I JUST KNOW IT! I CAN
FEEL IT. DIDN'T THE FACT
THAT THE NATIVES WOULDN'T
GO WITH US TIP YOU OFF
THAT WE WERE ON THE
TRACK OF SOMETHING
THEY FEARED? WELL,
I'M GOIN' ON!





WE'RE ON THE
RIGHT TRACK! THE
LEGENDS TALK OF
A GIGANTIC
COBRA!

A HUGE SNAKE
THAT ISN'T REALLY
A SNAKE AT ALL...
BUT A... WOMAN!

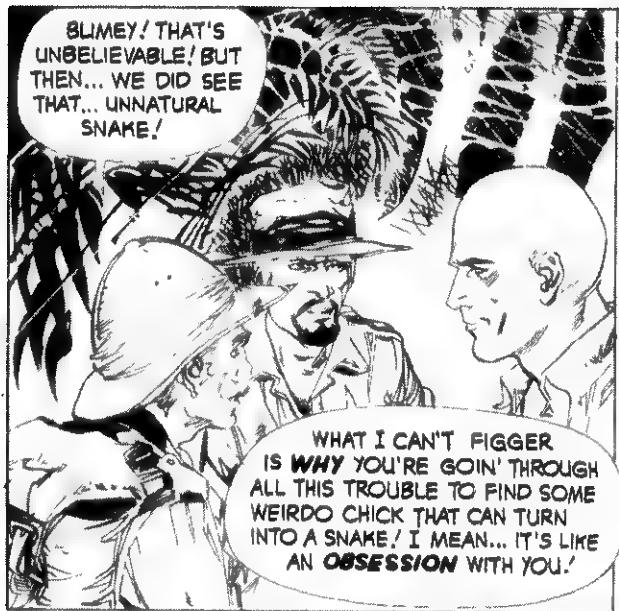
W-WHAT? WHAT'S
THAT YOU'RE
TRYING TO SAY?
YOU MEAN...

AS OLD AS THE TEMPLE
ITSELF, WHICH SPANS
CENTURIES! OF
UNFATHOMABLE BEAUTY!
BUT EQUALLY EVIL,
EXISTING FOR ONLY
ONE PURPOSE...

...TO TRANSFORM
HERSELF INTO THE
GIANT SNAKE... MUCH
IN THE FASHION OF THE
EUROPEAN WEREWOLF...
AND TO INFECT HER
OWN PEOPLE WITH
HER VENOM...

YOU HEARD ME!
A WOMAN!! THE COBRA
QUEEN, RULER OF THE LOST
TEMPLE OF THE COBRA!

...TO POISON
THEIR BLOOD AND
THEIR WILL, TURNING
THEM INTO HELPLESS
SLAVES... INTO
MINDLESS, WALKING
ZOMBIES!



NO MORE WORDS ARE SPOKEN...
EVEN AS THE SUN AGAIN BEATS
DOWN OVER A QUIET BURIAL...
AND...

PACKSTON MUST
BE TAKIN' THIS PURTY
HARD! HE AIN'T SAID A
SINGLE THING ALL
MORNIN'. WELL, SIR
REGINALD WAS ONE OF
THE BEST FELLARS
AROUND!



THEN... PACKSTON AND DR.
LONGLEY HALT, THEIR EYES
BULGING AT THE AWESOME
DISPLAY OF...

BUT THEIR
EYES... LIKE YOU
TOLD US ABOUT...
ZOMBIES!

AMAZONS'
LOOK AT THEM...
MAGNIFICENT AND
THEIR LOIN-CLOTHS...
COBRA SKINS!

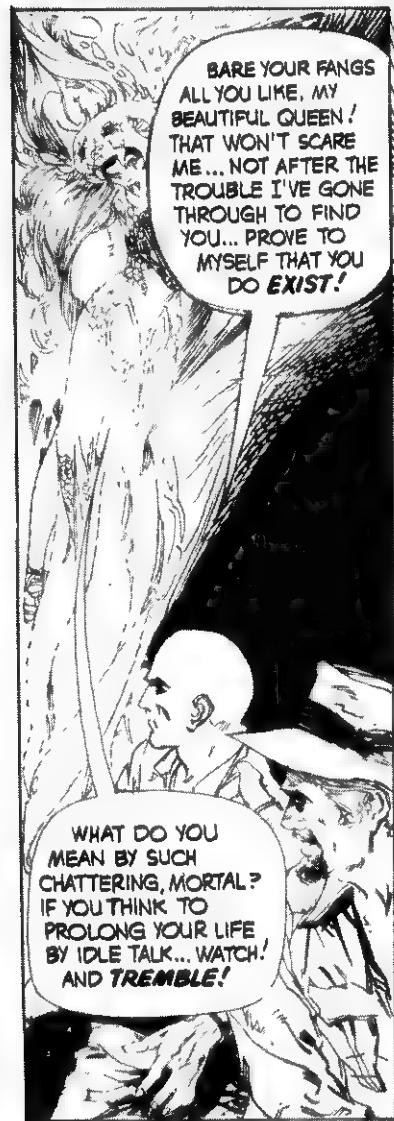
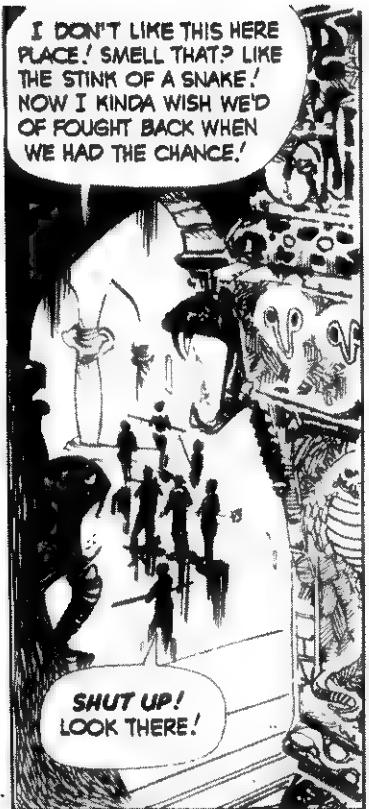


RECKON YOU'RE
RIGHT! IFFEN WE
TRIED TO FIGHT NOW,
WE'D BE SPEARED
TA DEATH! AND I
DON'T HANKER FER
THAT KINDA
MISBEHAVIN'!

PRESNTLY, AS THE THICKNESS OF
THE JUNGLE GRADUALLY DIMINISHES...

THERE IT IS, LONGLEY!
WHAT I'VE HEARD WHISPERS
OF, DREAMED OF FINDING...
ALL MY LIFE! THE TEMPLE
OF THE COBRA!





SCREAMING YOUR HEAD OFF BECAUSE YOU'RE MISSING...

VAMPIRELLA

BACK ISSUES

IS YOUR COLLECTION OF THE WORLD'S GRUEVIEST COMICS MAGAZINE INCOMPLETE? STOP GNASHING YOUR FANGS OUT AND ORDER THOSE MISSING ISSUES NOW!



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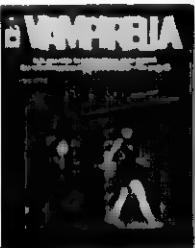
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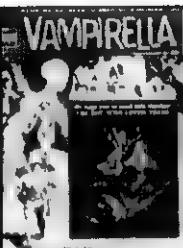
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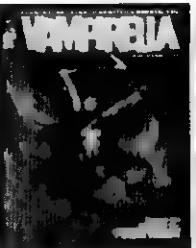
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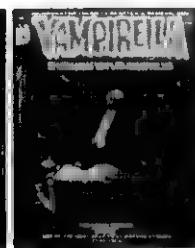
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DON'T WAIT! MAIL COUPON TODAY!

VAMPIRELLA

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PROLOGUE:

SHE TURNS AWAY FROM THE BREAKFAST TABLE FOR JUST A MOMENT, TO POUR HER MORNING COFFEE...

AND, WHEN SHE TURNS BACK...

OH MY GOD! HOW...
HOW DID THAT GET THERE?



ALMOST INSTANTLY, THE SHOCK OF SEEING THE DEAD RAT IS FORGOTTEN, AND, AS THOUGH IN A TRANCE, SHE WALKS TO THE TABLE...

... GENTLY LIFTS THE RAT TO HER MOUTH...

... AND BITES INTO IT,
THE RODENT BLOOD DRIBBLING DOWN HER CHIN...



THEN...

NO! DEAR GOD!

WHAT AM I DOING?

I'M CRACKING UP! I'M... I'M...





NOTHING LIKE A CAT TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS. CHERYL WAS ALONE. SHE NEEDED A CAT TO OCCUPY HER TIME LET'S JUST...

CAT COMPANIONSHIP!



NOW YOU STAND OVER THE DEAD BODY OF YOUR FORMER LOVER... THE KNIFE YOU HOLD STILL DRIPPING HIS BLOOD... AND YOU LAUGH. ONCE YOU LOVED THIS MAN, BUT NOW YOU LAUGH...

YOU ARE GLAD THAT HE IS DEAD. BUT STILL, SOMETHING IN THE BACK OF YOUR MIND ASKS, "HOW DID IT EVER COME TO THIS?" YOU THINK BACK...



... AND YOU REMEMBER AN AFTERNOON WHEN YOU STOOD LOOKING IN A PET SHOP WINDOW...

OH, WOW!
HE'S BEAUTIFUL!
LONG, BLACK HAIR! SO SLEEK! SHINY!

IF ONLY I COULD AFFORD TO--

BUT... WHY NOT?
I'VE GOT ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY HIM! AND HE SHOULDN'T BE THAT EXPENSIVE TO CARE FOR!

A PET IS JUST WHAT I NEED!
A COMPANION TO TAKE MY MIND OFF MY TROUBLES!



AND, WHEN WAS IT THAT THE
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN YOU AND
LES BEGAN TO CHANGE ? WAS IT
THAT VERY NIGHT ?

PLEASE,
CHERYL...

NO,
LES ! WE
MUSTN'T !

I ALREADY
TOLD YOU !

YOU'RE NOT LIKE
THE OTHERS ! I
LOVE YOU !

BUT...WE
LOVE EACH
OTHER,
DON'T WE ?

IT WAS
DIFFERENT
WITH THE
OTHERS !

AND THAT'S WHY I
WANT OUR RELATIONSHIP
TO BE DIFFERENT I
WANT US TO WAIT !

YOU'VE
TOLD ME
ABOUT ALL THE
OTHER MEN !
WHY CAN'T
WE --

BUT,
DARLING, I
CAN'T WAIT !
NOT ANY
LONGER !
I'M...

OH...

I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
YOU LIKED CATS !

THOSE EYES ! DOES IT
HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING
AT ME LIKE THAT ? ALMOST
LIKE IT'S PLANNING TO
ATTACK ME OR ... OR
SOMETHING !

MEEEOW !

A CAT ??
HOW THE HELL DID
THAT GET IN
HERE ?

I BROUGHT
IT HERE !
THAT'S HOW !

I JUST BOUGHT
IT THIS MORNING !

LATER THAT SAME NIGHT,
AFTER LES HAD LEFT...

IT'S NO
GOOD, KITTY!
I WAS WRONG
ABOUT LES! HE
ISN'T DIFFERENT
AT ALL! HE'S
JUST LIKE THE
OTHERS!

HE
DOESN'T
CARE ABOUT
ME... JUST
MY BODY!
THAT'S ALL
HE'S AFTER!

HE CERTAINLY
PROVED THAT
TONIGHT!

WELL, TWO
CAN PLAY THE
GAME!

IF HE'S GOING
TO TRY 'N TAKE
ME FOR EVERYTHING
HE CAN GET, THEN
I'M GONNA DO THE
SAME WITH
HIM!

HEY! WHAT'S
GOING ON?
FEEL DIZZY...
WEAK...

WAS THAT WHEN YOU FIRST
BLACKED OUT?

BUT THEN YOU NOTICED YOUR
FINGERNAILS! THEY WERE
BROKEN, AND THERE WAS A
BIT OF FABRIC CAUGHT ON
ONE OF THE JAGGED EDGES...

WH-- WHAT'S
HAPPENING AROUND
HERE? THIS DOESN'T
MAKE ANY SENSE!

MUST'VE
DOZED OFF!
IT'S-- WHA--?

THE SOFA!
ALL TORN!

THAT CAT
MUST HAVE--

TAKE ME! PLEASE
TAKE ME!

PLEASE,
CHERYL...

WEEKS PASSED... AND THEN,
IN A SMALL BAR NOT FAR
FROM YOUR APARTMENT...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENED
TO CHERYL!

SHE'S CHANGED!
REALLY CHANGED!





IT WAS THEN THAT YOU
SPRANG OUT OF HIDING...

LIKE AN ENRAGED
ALLEY CAT, YOU STRUCK
AGAIN... AND AGAIN...
AND AGAIN...

FFFFFFFFFFTTTT!



AND NOW YOU STAND
OVER THE BODY OF YOUR
FORMER LOVER... THE
KNIFE YOU HOLD STILL
DРИPPING HIS BLOOD...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO ME, LES!
I SHOULD FEEL GUILTY
ABOUT WHAT I'VE DONE TO
TO YOU! BUT I DON'T!

I HAD TO DO IT! I
COULDN'T HELP
MYSELF!

THIS IS OUR
DOMAIN! YOU HAD NO
RIGHT BREAKING IN
HERE AND THREATENING
US! YOU DESERVED
TO DIE!

CAT GOT
YOUR TONGUE?
POOR LES, CAT
GUT HIM I
GUESS.

THERE BE
GRAVE DOINGS
ABOUT, SO LET'S
DIG IN!

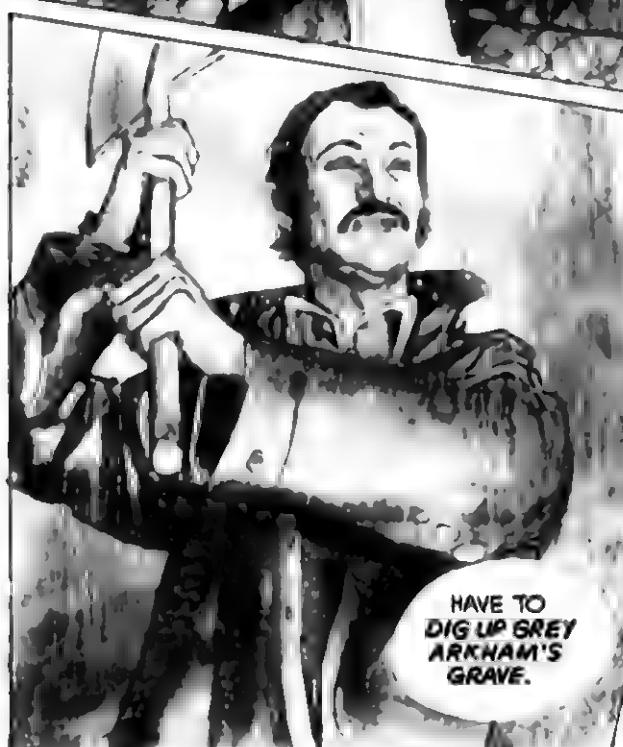
THE ACCURSED!

I NEVER THOUGHT
I'D ATTEMPT THIS. NOT
ALONE, CERTAINLY, BUT
NONE OF THE DAMNED
TOWNSPEOPLE WILL HELP
ME. HOPE I DON'T
HAVE TO USE MY PISTOL.

I MUST
DO IT FOR...
HIM.

HAVE TO
DIG UP GREY
ARKHAM'S
GRAVE.

CR-RASSH!!



A MILLION CORPSE-EYES FASTEN UPON HIM. A WIND BLOWS UP, MOCKING HIM WITH MIDNIGHT CHILL. UNNUMBERED TOMBSTONES FACE HIM ACCUSINGLY. THIS IS A PLACE OF DEATH. WHAT RIGHT HAS HE TO BE HERE?

PULLING THE COLLAR OF HIS COAT TIGHTER, TRASK INFILTRATES THE UNMOVING SEA OF ANCIENT DEATH, GLANCING CAUTIOUSLY ABOUT.

WOULDN'T DO THIS BUT FOR ONE MAN. GOD, IT'S COLD.

NEVER FELT SO ALONE. IT BEGINS NOW.

HE SENSES THE HORROR BEFORE SEEING IT, PASSING UNDER A GROUP OF GHOST-TREES. A SLAVERING, UNHOLY STALKER OF THE NIGHT.

...BY THE ALMIGHTY...

HE RECOGNIZES THE DISTORTED FEATURES OF GREY ARKHAM...SORCERER! AND THE BEAST READIES TO SPRING...

GRROWWW! POW! POW! POW!



ANOTHER LEGEND DISPROVED. YOU CAN SLAY A WEREWOLF WITH ORDINARY BULLETS. AT LEAST ONE IN THE IMAGE OF ITS CREATOR. WHAT OTHER DEMONS DID ARKHAN LEAVE TO GUARD HIS GRAVE?

ANCESTRAL FEARS OF THE DEAD HAUNT HIM, SHRIEKING FROM GHOUl DARKNESS IGNORED BY THE SCANT MOONLIGHT. HE GRIMLY AWAITs THE NEW TERRORS HE IS SURE WILL COME.

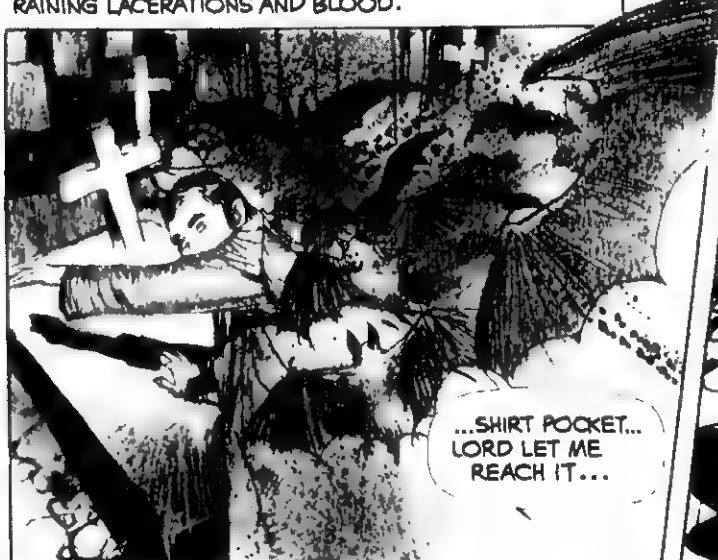


THE HORDE CONVERGES QUICKLY TO BITE, SLASH... ATTACK!



HE RIPS THE POCKET OPEN. THE LIGHTER FLARES INTO LIFE AND TRASK THRUSTS IT AT THE NEAREST VAMPIRE.

HE GOES DOWN, HUDDLES AGAINST A TOMBSTONE. FANGS VICIOUSLY BITE AND TEAR AT HIS COAT. CLAWS RAKE ACROSS HAIR AND UNPROTECTED SKIN, RAINING LACERATIONS AND BLOOD.



HE WRAPS COAT-TATTERS ROUND A BRANCH AND IGNITES IT. THE DEMONS BURN, AND SCREAM, AND FLY AWAY.



THE GHASTLY SCENE BRINGS HIM NEAR MADNESS. TO COUNTER IT, HIS MIND DRIFTS BACK. A DAY AGO...



THEY DO NOT NOTICE THE WOMAN UNTIL SHE IS AMONG THEM, SPEAKING IN A VOICE HARSH AS THE BITING AUTUMN WIND.



HE STUMBLIES IN DEATH-DARKNESS, TRYING TO RECALL THE DIRECTION OF HIS GOAL. STOPPING TO WIPE BLOOD FROM HIS EYES, HE SPIES IT AT LAST.



PIERCILY, WITHOUT CEASING, HE DIGS! HOURS FLOOD BY, UNTIL HE STOPS TEN FEET DEEP!



ANOTHER JOINS THE FIRST. LOW THROATED SNARLING ACCOMPANIES THEIR LEAP.



HE EMPTIES THE REVOLVER, USING THE SHOVEL AS A SHIELD FOR FACE AND THROAT, FOR WHICH THE PACK REPEATEDLY SPRINGS.

THE DIGGING INSTRUMENT BECOMES A SCYTHE, A PENDULUM OF HURTLING BLOODY DEATH. SECTIONS OF GRAVE-WALL CRUMBLE UNDER THE FEROCIOUS ONSLAUGHT.



THE FOUL RODENTS ARE EVERYWHERE. TRASK PLUNGES THE TOOL DOWNWARDS... SMASHES THROUGH THE COFFIN LID OF BLACK LOCUST WOOD.

...AND THE RATS FLEE!



THE CORPSE LEERS UP AT HIM. ONLY A FEW DAYS BURIED, ITS OWN GODLESS EVIL HAS REDUCED IT TO A DECAYED, SICKENING HEAP, Oozing MAGGOTS AND WORMS AND STENCH.



HE IS REVULSED, CLOSE TO VOMITING, BLEEDING HEAVILY, STUNNED FROM SHOCK. YET HE STRUGGLES. PULLS THE VILE CADAVER FROM OUT THE GRAVE.

WON'T BE...
BEATEN NOW...
WON'T.



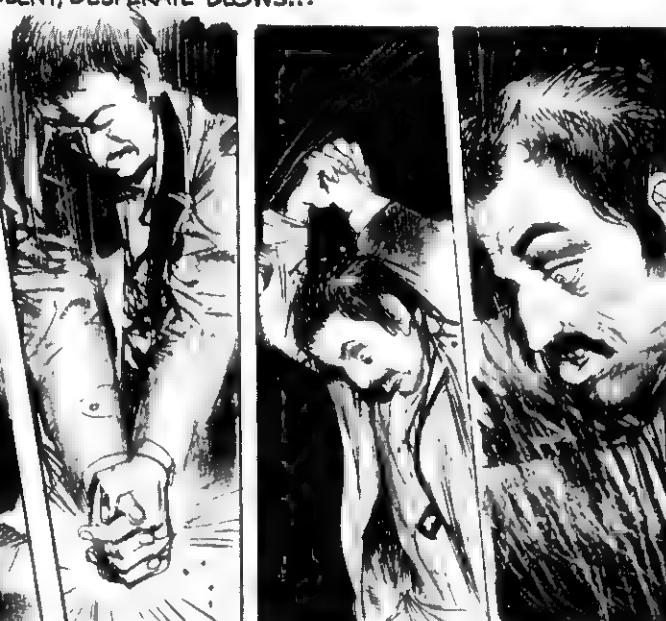
THE POWER OF THE BEYOND. THE DAMNED. IT WORKS AGAIN NOW, MALIGNANTLY, UNSEEN...



ARKHAM UPRIGHTS HIMSELF ON BONY PUTRESCENT LEGS... MOVES TOWARD HIS PAIN-AGONISED VICTIM. INSANE SKELETAL LAUGHTER RISES FROM NOWHERE.



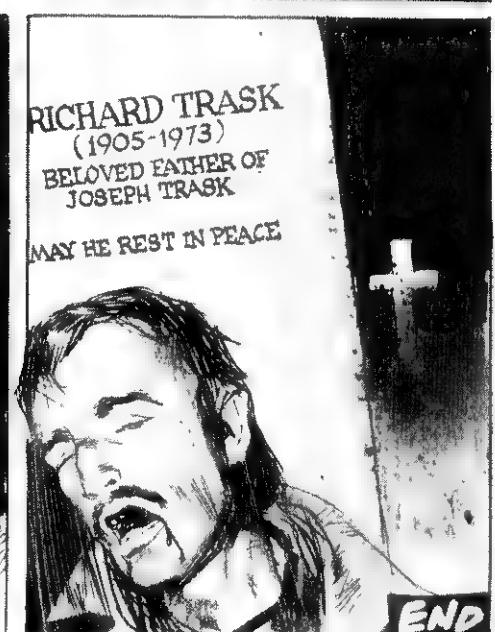
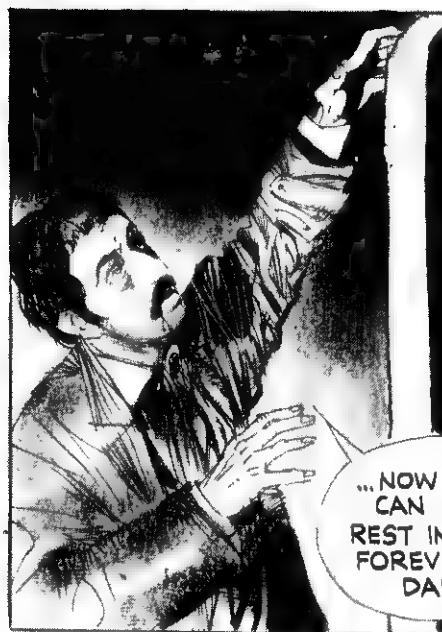
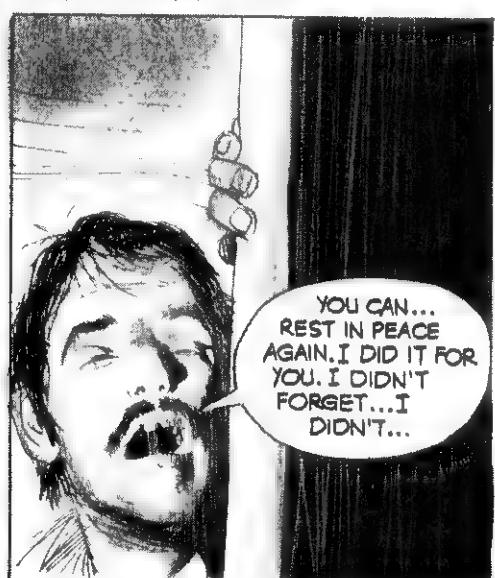
BLOOD FROM HIS CHEST SOAKS HIS SHIRT, RUNS DOWN HIS CLOTHES... HE IS HALF-DEAD. BUT HE RISES AND STRIKES! WEAKENED, ROTTEN BONE AND CARTILAGE PARTS UNDER HIS VIOLENT, DESPERATE BLOWS...



...UNTIL THE CORE OF EVIL, ARKHAM'S UNDYING BRAIN, IS MASHED TO PULP!



MINUTES ONLY REMAIN TO HIM. DEATH TEARS AND PULLS WITH MERCILESS FINGERS AT HIS WEARY, MUTILATED BODY, BUT FIERCE DETERMINATION MAKES HIM CLAW THE GROUND AND CRAWL. CRAWL. UNTIL HIS GOAL IS ATTAINED.



PROLOGUE: GERMANY 1623. IN THE ABSENCE OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY, THE INDEPENDENT THEOCRACIES OF THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE TURNED TO THE **CAROLINA CODES**, PRESCRIBING **TORTURE** AND **DEATH** FOR THOSE ACCUSED OF WITCHCRAFT. THE BISHOPRIC OF BAMBERG GREW INFAMOUS AS THE CENTER OF RELIGIOUS INQUISITION IN EUROPE UNDER THE HEXENBISCHOF, GOTTFRIED THE SECOND.

THE GRIM PROCESSION MOVED QUIETLY THROUGH THE TOWN SQUARE TOWARD SILENT GALLows WAITING INDIFFERENTLY FOR THEIR NEXT SACRIFICE.

HELGA STARKNEIN SEEMED UNAWARE OF THEIR FATEFUL PROPHECY, AS HER THOUGHTS DRIFTED BACK TO ONE WEEK EARLIER...



WITH A SICKENING SNAP, HELGA'S MEMORIES, AND HER LIFE, WERE BROUGHT TO THEIR ABRUPT END.

YES,
MOMMY...



I'LL TAKE
CARE... OF
BOTH OF US!

MURKOV

IT RAINED THE DAY THEY HANGED HELGA STARKNEIN; A COLD, BITTER RAIN THAT DIDN'T SEEM TO BOTHER MIRCALLA AS SHE WATCHED. THOSE WHO KNEW HER SAID SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT DAY... SOMETHING STRANGE, SOMETHING FRIGHTENING.



THE WITCH'S PROMISE

THEY SAY "WELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A WOMAN SCORNED" ESPECIALLY IF THE WOMAN IN QUESTION HAPPENS TO BE A WITCH. MEET WILHELM BRANDT, CAPTAIN IN THE GERMAN ARMY... CONSUMED WITH PASSION FOR THE BEAUTIFUL MIRCALLA, BUT SO! BRANDT'S PASSION IS A PASSING THING SOMETIMES LEAVING BITTER EMBERS...

WELL, LITTLE SOLDIER, WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE IN THE WOODS BY YOURSELF?

I MIGHT WELL ASK **YOU** THE SAME QUESTION, MY LOVELY. BUT SINCE **YOU** ASKED FIRST, I AM MAKING MY WAY TO HEADQUARTERS IN WURZBERG... TO **END** MY ENLISTMENT!

IT'S QUITE RARE THAT ANYONE PASSES THROUGH THESE WOODS. THAT'S WHY I CHOOSE TO LIVE HERE. IN ANY CASE, WURZBERG IS STILL FAR OFF, AND YOU WILL NEED FOOD AND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT.



FLATTERY COMES CHEAP, DOESN'T IT, WILHELM
BRANDT? YOU'VE GIVEN IT FREELY TO **COUNTLESS**
LOVELY WOMEN... WOMEN YOU HAVE PLAYED WITH
LIKE HELPLESS PUPPETS...

YES, FLATTERY COMES CHEAP; AND ITS COST
COMES ONLY FROM THOSE WHO FOOLISHLY
ACCEPT IT...

THE SUAVE **SMILE**... THE COOL **URBANE MANNER**... THEY
NEVER FAIL, DO THEY, WILHELM BRANDT? YOU'VE PLAYED ON
A WOMAN'S **LONELINESS**, AND YOU'VE WON... BE PROUD OF
YOUR CHARM, WILHELM BRANDT... YOU HAVE **VERY LITTLE**
ELSE YOU CAN BE PROUD OF...



LAST NIGHT
WAS SO SWEET, MY
LOVE. I'VE BEEN ALONE
SO LONG I'D FORGOTTEN
WHAT IT MEANT TO SHARE
THINGS. STAY HERE ALWAYS
WITH ME PLEASE?

HERE, IN THIS
DISMAL WILDERNESS?
YOU MUST BE JOKING!
THERE'S A LOT MORE LIKE
YOU IN THE REAL WORLD...
AND I PLAN TO SAMPLE
MANY MORE, BEFORE
I'VE SETTLED DOWN...

YOU CAN'T LEAVE
ME NOW. THERE ARE TOO
MANY THINGS HAPPENING
INSIDE ME... NEW
THINGS, WONDERFUL
THINGS THAT I HAVE
HAVE NEVER FELT
BEFORE!

GET YOUR HANDS
OFF ME, MIRCALLA.
WE'VE HAD OUR
FUN... AND THAT'S
OVER AND DONE
WITH.

YOU'LL BE MINE, MY
LOVE... I SWEAR IT!
BEWARE, WILHELM
BRANDT... BEWARE
WALPURGIS NIGHT! ON
THAT NIGHT, WE WILL BE
REUNITED ONCE AGAIN
FOR ETERNITY!

SOMEDAY I'LL LEARN
TO BE MORE SELECTIVE
ABOUT MY WOMEN. THIS
ONE'S AS MAD AS THEY
COME. SUCH
UNPLEASANTNESS
IS TOTALLY UNNECESSARY.

THE WEEKS IDLED BY,
AND BRANDT WAS
ONCE AGAIN A
CIVILIAN. MIRCALLA'S
THREATS WERE WASHED
AWAY BY THE **SWEET**
TASTE OF **ALE** AND THE
WARM FLESH OF A
LOCAL STREET WENCH
NAMED **NINA**...



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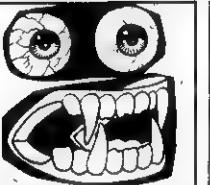


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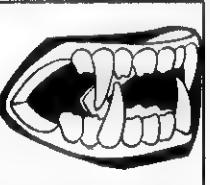
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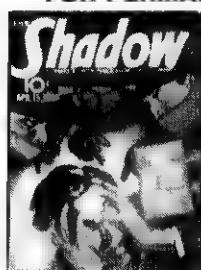
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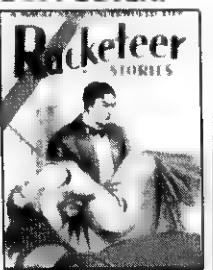
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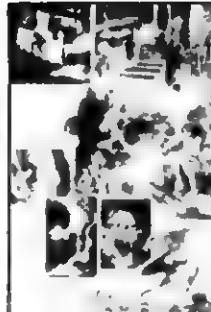
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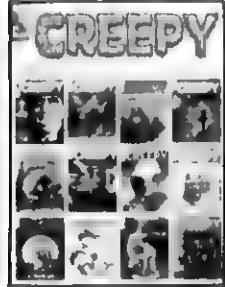
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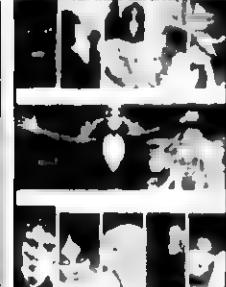
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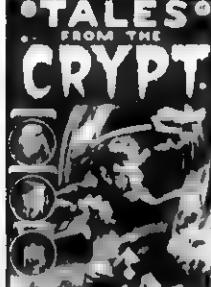
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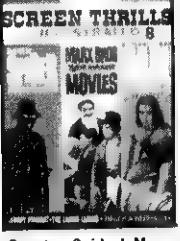
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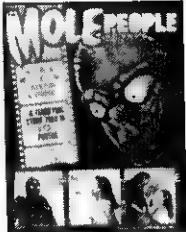
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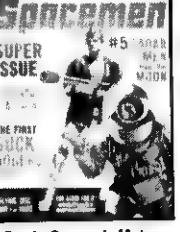
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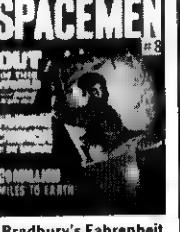
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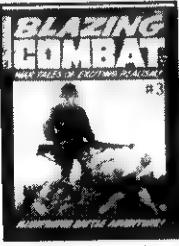
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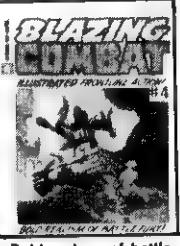
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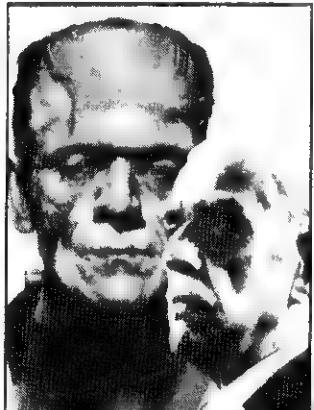


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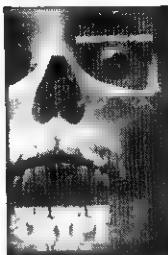
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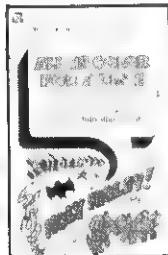
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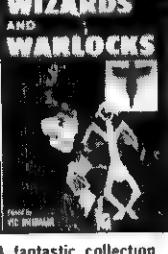
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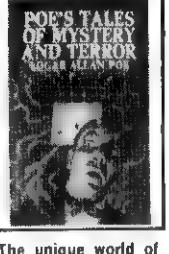
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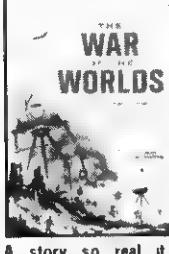
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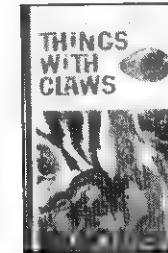
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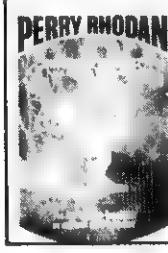
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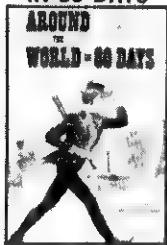
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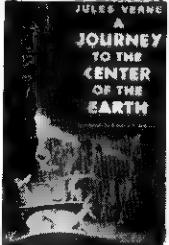
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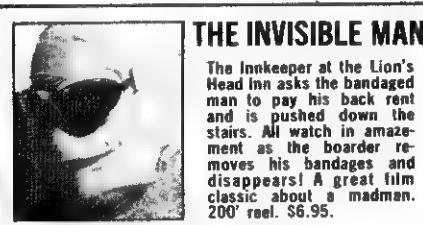
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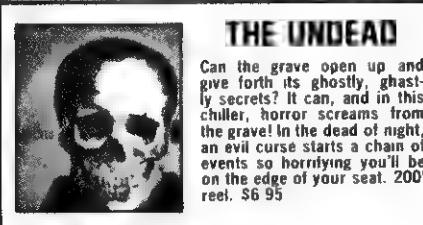
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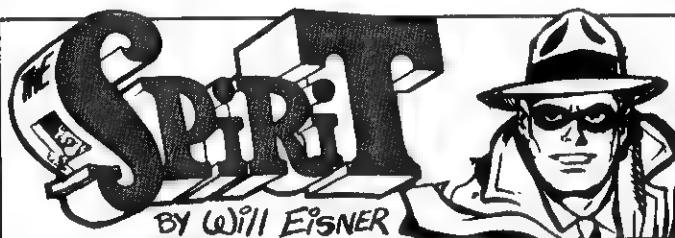
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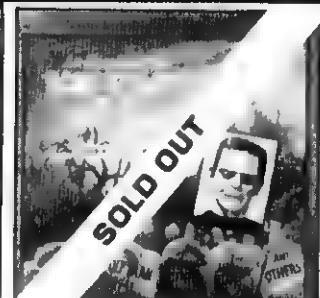
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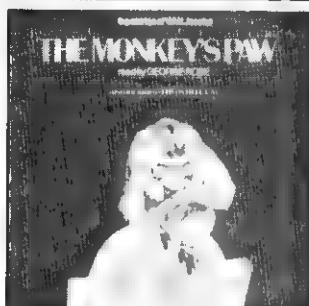
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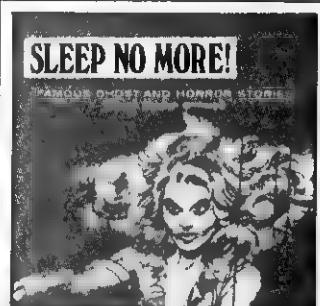
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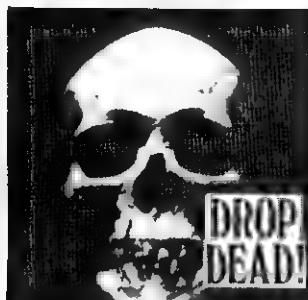
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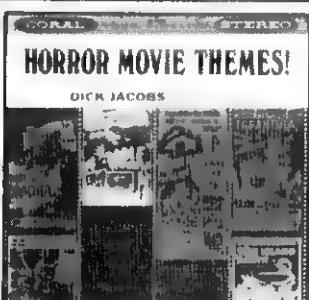
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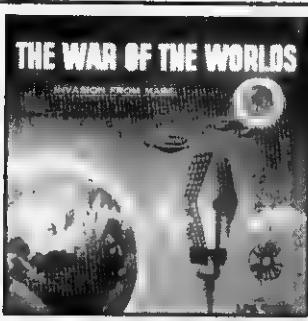
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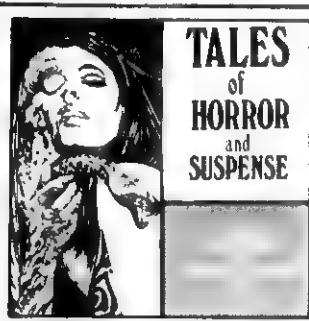
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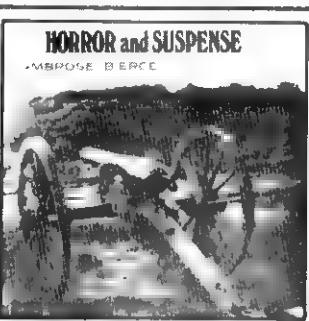
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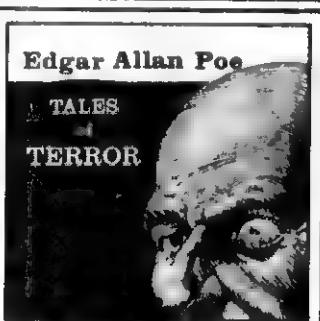
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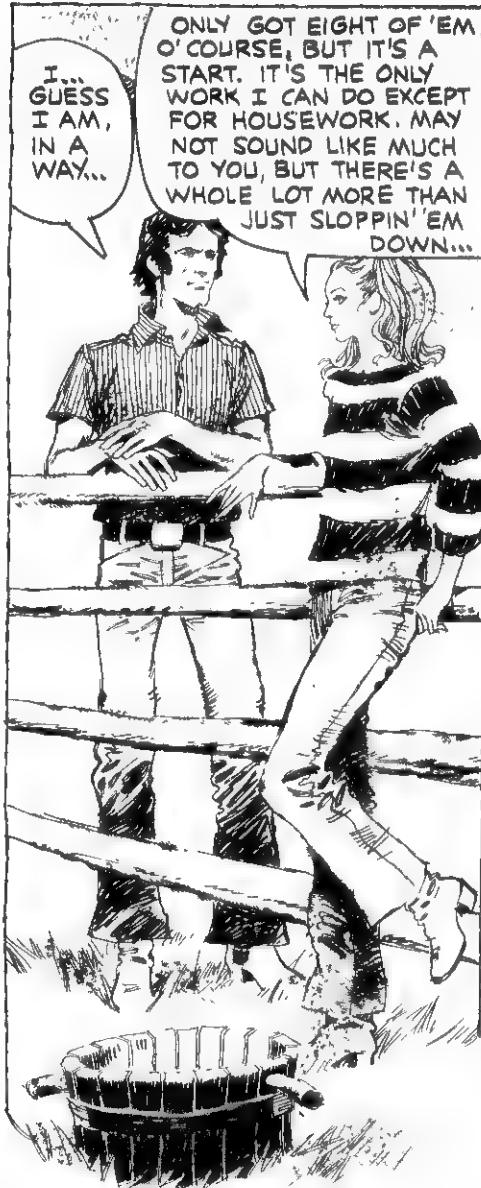
WON'T EDDIE EVER LEARN

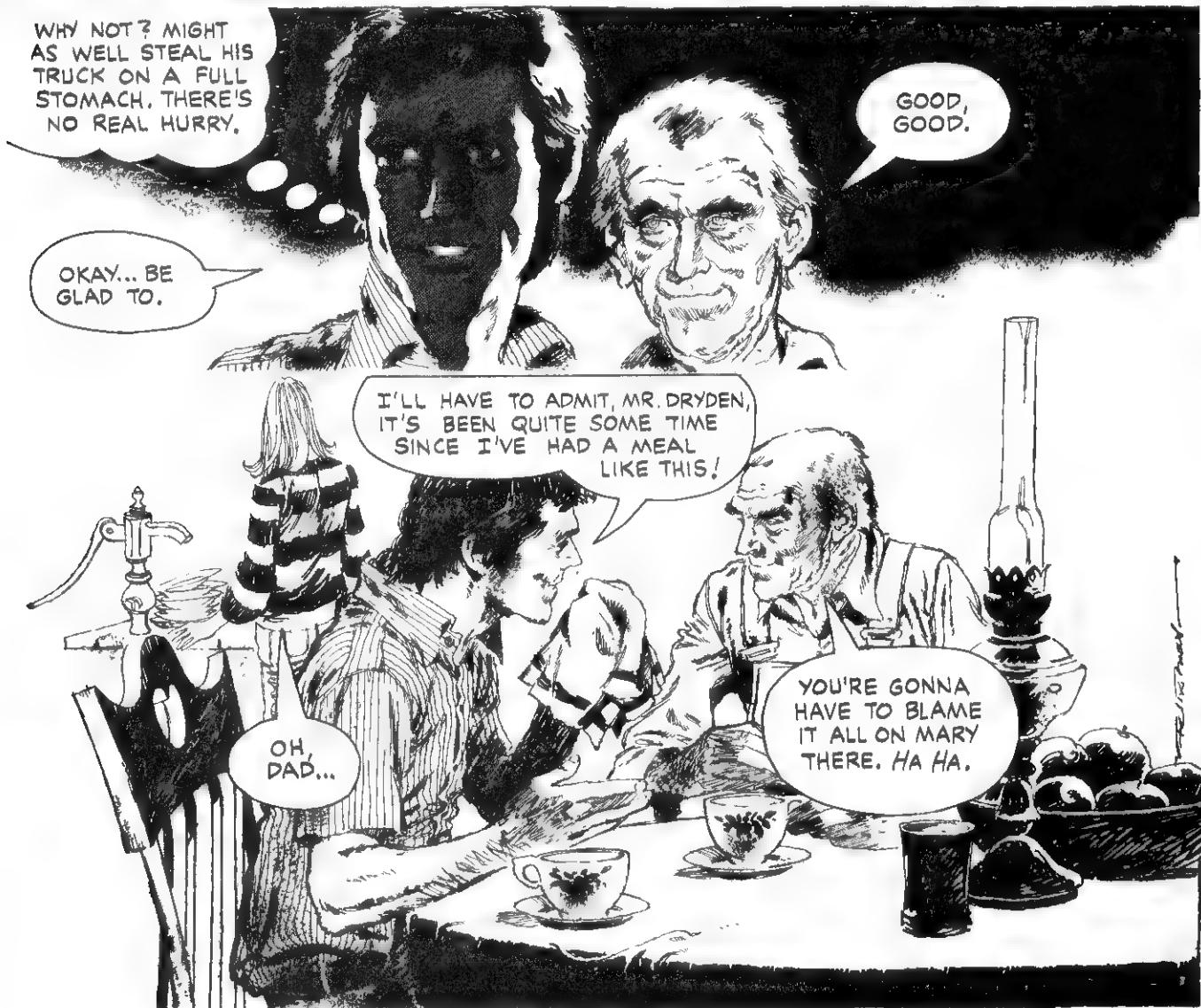


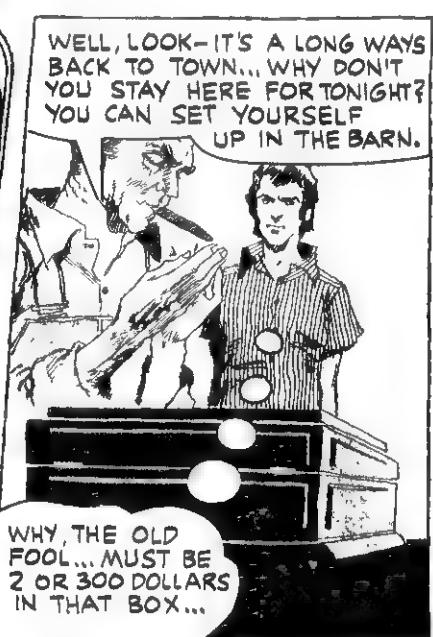
WELL... YOU **REALLY** DONE IT THIS TIME DIDN'T YOU ? THAT'S **FIVE** STATES LOOKIN' FOR YOU NOW. WHY'D YOU HAVE TO PICK **THAT** GUY OUT OF ALL THE DRUG-GISTS IN TOWN TO PASS OFF THOSE TRAVELERS CHEQUES ON? A HAND WRITING EXPERT OF ALL THINGS...







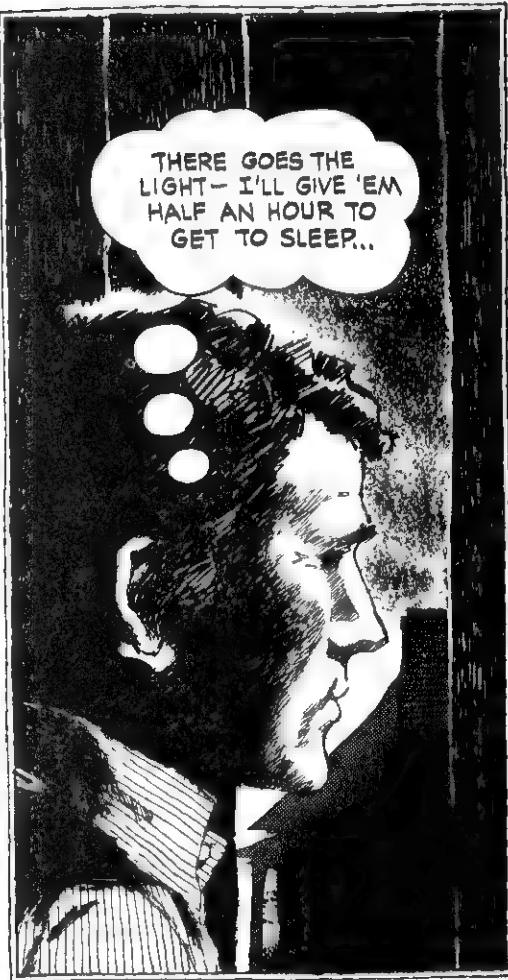
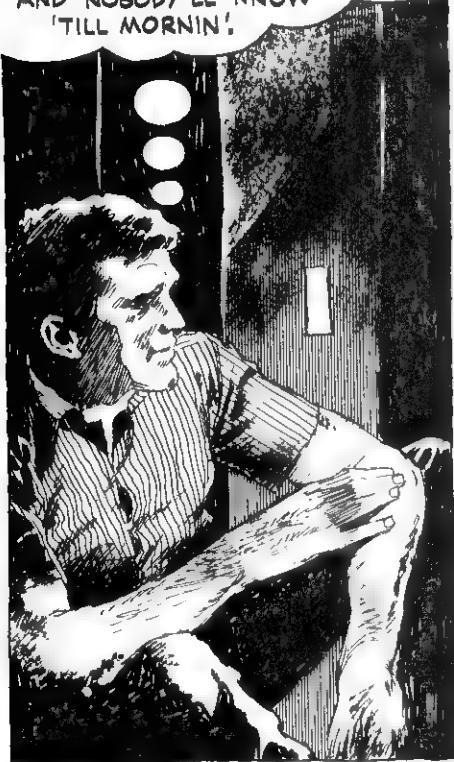


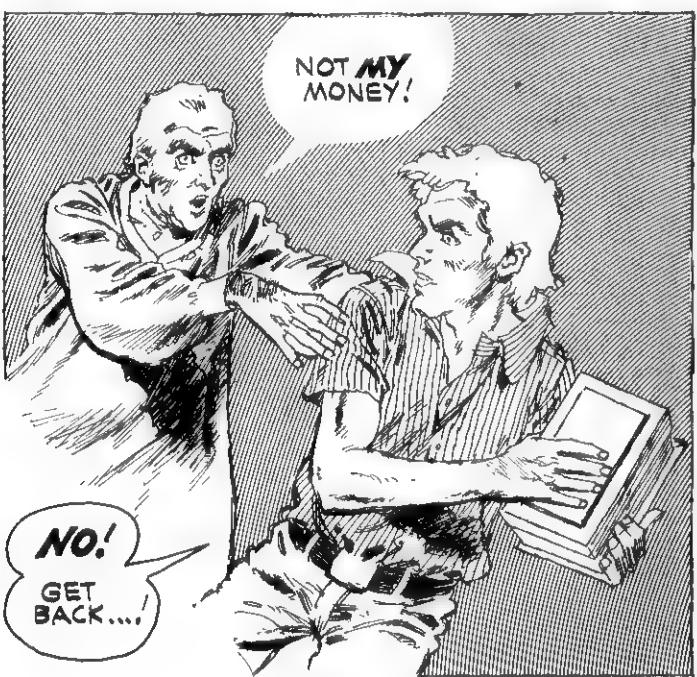
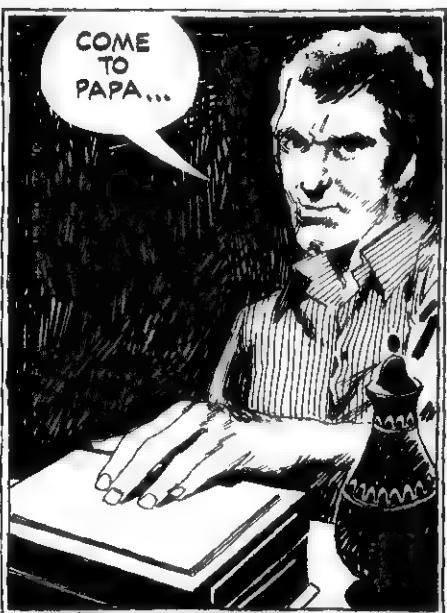


LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT YET, EDDIE, MY BOY. AND HERE YOU WERE SATISFIED WITH JUST PUNCHING UP THE OLD GUY AND SWIPING HIS TRUCK. THIS WAY YOU GET A MEAL, SOME MONEY, AND TRANSPORTATION—AND NOBODY'LL KNOW 'TILL MORNIN'.

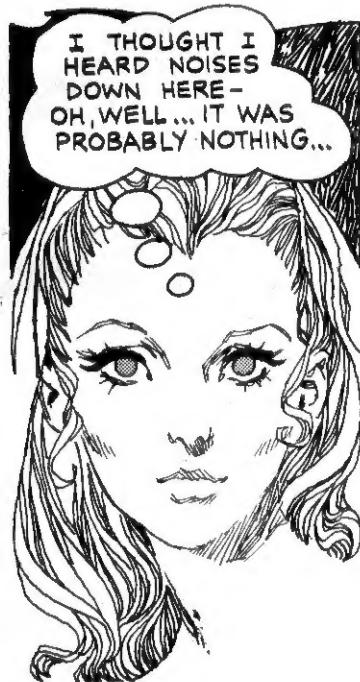
THERE GOES THE LIGHT—I'LL GIVE 'EM HALF AN HOUR TO GET TO SLEEP...

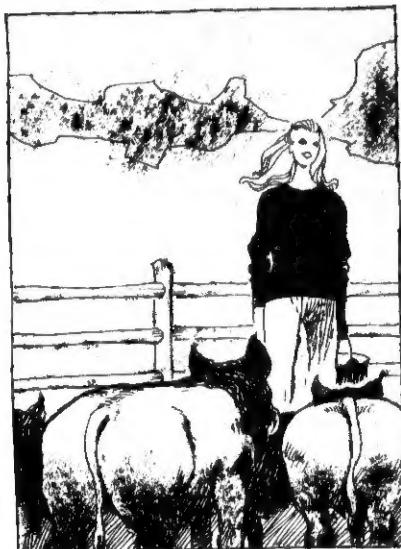
TIME ENOUGH...











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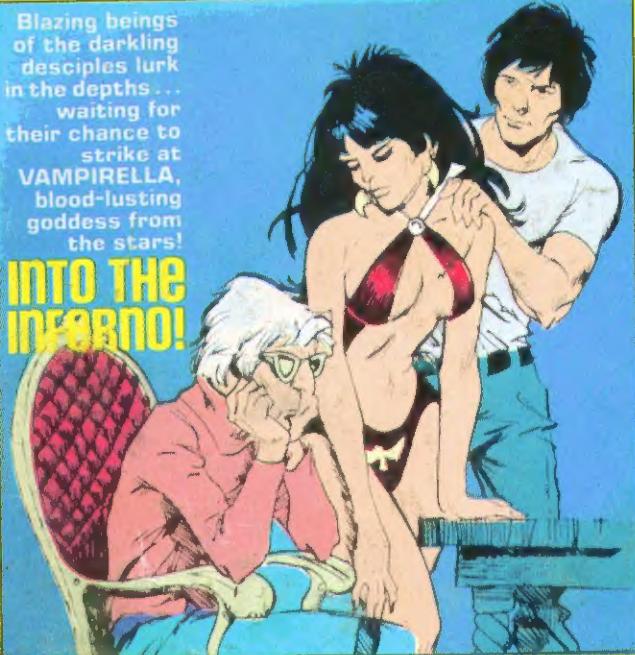
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VAMPIRELLA PREVIEW OF NEXT ISSUE!

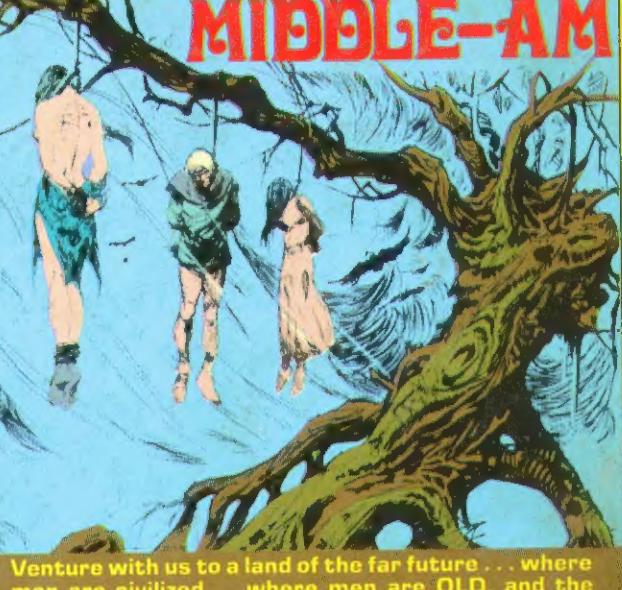
Blazing beings
of the darkling
desciples lurk
in the depths...
waiting for
their chance to
strike at
VAMPIRELLA,
blood-lusting
goddess from
the stars!

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men are civilized... where men are OLD, and the
young are put to death simply because they ARE
young!

ON SALE MARCH 13

PREVIEW NEXT ISSUE

EERIE

NO. 47

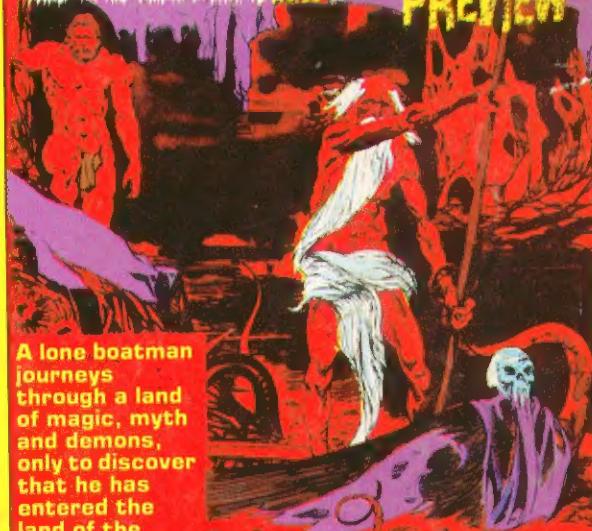
His blade,
shimmering
in the
moonless
night, DAX,
mighty
warrior,
waits,
bracing
himself for
the clash
with a
titanic
beast! Only
one of the
many
dangers
DAX must
face on the
distant
planet,

GEMMA 5

PLUS: DRACULA, and a one-eyed witch aboard
a sailing vessel on the high seas encounter a corpse
risen from the grave. "Enter The Dead-Thing!"

ON SALE FEBRUARY 15

CREEPY NEXT ISSUE PREVIEW



A lone boatman
journeys
through a land
of magic, myth
and demons,
only to discover
that he has
entered the
land of the
DEAD in ...

A DESCENT INTO TARTARUS!

PLUS: A meteor falls from the skies, and a night
of terror begins for an isolated farm family in:
"The Night The Creatures Attacked!"

ON SALE MARCH 20